WEEKLY ECONOMIC REVIEW

April 4, 2008

Alberta added 9,600 (+0.5%) workers in March, pushing the employment level beyond the two million mark for the first time. Year-to-date, employment grew 3.3%, the strongest in Canada. Alberta also continued to have the lowest unemployment rate among the provinces at 3.4%. Following two months of large gains, Canada's employment cooled slightly as it grew by 0.1% (+14,600), resulting from an increase in part-time jobs (+34,200). A surge of new entrants into the labour force raised the national unemployment rate to 6.0% from 5.8% in February.

In contrast to Alberta and Canada, U.S. nonfarm payroll employment continued to deteriorate as it fell 80,000 in March, its biggest monthly decline in five years. This pushed the unemployment rate to 5.1% from 4.8% in February.

The ISM non-manufacturing index, a gauge of business activity outside the manufacturing sector, came in slightly higher than expected at 49.6. This was up slightly from 49.3 in February, but still below 50 which signifies a contraction.

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke admitted that the economy could contract in the first half of 2008, but monetary and fiscal measures in place should support growth later this year. However, he noted that the U.S. economic outlook remains highly uncertain and inflation is still a concern.

Cdn Dollar (US¢/CS)

April 4, 2008	99.1
March 28, 2008	98.2
2007-08 YTD	97.1

WTI Oil US$/bbl

April 3, 2008	$ 103.83
March 27, 2008	$ 107.58
2007-08 YTD	$ 103.21

Nymex Natural Gas CS/MMBtu*
May Contract

April 4, 2008	$ 9.52
March 28, 2008	$ 9.87

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

After posting a 0.7% month-to-month decline in December, Canada's real gross domestic product (GDP) rebounded to grow 0.6% in January led by wholesale trade (+2.8%) and manufacturing (+1.7%). The latter managed to recover from a 3.4% drop in December on the back of higher motor vehicle production.

The Industrial Product Price index fell 0.8% in February from a year earlier. The reduction in prices for motor vehicles and transportation equipment and primary metals has offset stronger energy prices. The cost of raw materials, on the other hand, surged 14.9% year-over-year due to price hikes in mineral fuels and vegetable products.

Crude fell to US$103.83 as weaker U.S. economic conditions have intensified investors' worries that a U.S. economic slowdown could weaken energy demand.

Economic Indicators Released this Week	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (M/M)	Month/Previous Year's Month(Y/Y)	Year-to-date[1]
Employment (000s) [2]	**March**			
Alberta	2,005	0.5%	3.4%	3.3%
Canada	17,117	0.1%	1.9%	2.0%
United States	137,846	-0.1%	0.4%	0.5%
Canada	**February**			
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	115.6	0.1%	-0.8%	-0.4%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	190.0	0.5%	14.9%	16.2%

Source: Statistics Canada. [1]Year-to-date compared to the same period in the previous year. [2] Seasonally adjusted